REMARKS

Claims 1-17 remain pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejection based on the following comments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 9, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,185,598 to Farber et al. ("Farber") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,345,361 to Jerger et al. ("Jerger"). Claims 4-8 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farber and Jerger and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,338,082 to Schneider ("Schneider"). In discussing the Farber, Jerger and Schneider references, Applicant is making no admission that either reference has a filing date that predates the present invention.

Applicant conducted an interview with Examiners Nguyen and Thompson on January 23, 2003 to discuss the pending claims and the Farber and Schneider references. At that interview it was presented that the Farber and Schneider references failed to show the performance of a regular expression comparison at a Domain Name Server. Applicant then amended independent claims 1, 9 and 10 to further bring out this feature of the present invention.

Taking claim 1 as an example, the first operation is "retrieving a regular expression stored at a Domain Name Server;" the second operation is "performing a comparison between a first Internet site name and the regular expression at the Domain Name Server ...." The current Office Action states that these features can be found in Cols. 7 and 8 of Farber. Applicant has already presented arguments as to why these features are not found in Farber. The current Office

Action fails to address these arguments at all.

Farber refers to a system for handling resource requests made by clients in a network. Cols. 7 and 8 and Col. 22, lines 37-63), describe the generation of a GET request by a client computer. This GET request from the client computer is sent to a reflector 108 (see Fig. 1), which performs a regular expression comparison. Col. 8, lines 1-8 are provided below:

> "B2. If the request is not from a repeater, the reflector looks
>
> up the requested resource in a table (called the "rule base")
>
> to determine whether the resource requested is
>
> "repeatable." Based on this determination, the reflector
>
> either reflects the request (B3, described below) or serves
>
> the request locally (B4, described below).
>
> The rule base is a list of regular expressions and associated
>
> attributes."

The reflector 108 is not a Domain Name Server. It is noted that the term "Domain Name Server" is used at Col. 7, lines 6-7, which is part of an example that does not use the reflector described above. Col. 7, lines 10-24 describe a separate component, called the "origin server," a component different from the Domain Name Server (see Col. 7, lines 5-14). At Col. 7, lines 45-46, Farber states that the origin server referred to in items A3-A7 (i.e., Col. 7, lines 10-24) is the reflector. Also, Col. 22, lines 10-12 describe the reflector and DNS as different components. The inescapable conclusion is that the retrieving and comparison operations recited in claim 1

3

(with similar limitations in claims 9 and 10) are not performed in the Domain Name Server in Farber. Thus, these features are neither shown nor suggested by Farber.

Jerger fails to make up for the deficiencies of Farber. Jerger refers to directional set operations for permission based security in a computer system. Referring to Col. 17, lines 50-67, Jerger refers to the use of wildcard characters to specify multiple domain names. The comparisons using such wild card characters is performed by the Internet security manager 222 Referring to Fig. 2, it is clear that the Internet security manager 222 operates as part of a browser 203 on a local personal computer. A Domain Name Server would be a different component coupled, for example to the wide area network 152. Accordingly, Jerger fails to teach or suggest that the retrieval and comparison operations of the claims are performed at a Domain Name Server.

As stated in the previous Amendment, Schneider also fails to teach or suggest these features. Schneider describes DNS servers, but in no manner teaches the performance of regular expression comparisons at these servers.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.
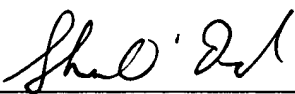
CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4255 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Dated: __October 24, 2003__   By: _____

Shawn W. O'Dowd (Reg. No. 34,687)

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 220-4200 telephone
DC1-473068

5